20

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A machine tool that comprises a fixed bed, a pair of tool posts mounted on the fixed bed on a side closer to an operator and a carriage mounted on each of the tool posts is disclosed. headstock is provided on a side of the fixed bed farther from the operator so that a workpiece disposed in the headstock is subjected to a cutting process by moving the carriages and the tool posts relative to the workpiece. The machine tool also includes a headstock base having the headstock disposed thereon. The headstock base is structured and arranged so as to be movable between a workpiece machining position where the workpiece can be machined at a position farther from the operator and a workpiece loading and unloading position where the workpiece can be loaded and unloaded at a position closer to the operator. A chip collecting opening is provided in the fixed bed between the carriages and the headstock when the headstock is positioned in the workpiece machining position. The fixed bed also includes a tunnel formed therein. The tunnel communicates with the chip collecting opening and extends rearwardly away from the operator. In this way, the chips that have fallen into the chip collecting opening can be collected through the tunnel. Thus, this machine tool allows easy workpiece loading and unloading and improves operational efficiency of the machine tool.

- 17 -